

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 3, 2007
Contact: Dana Roberts
804-559-0324

News Release

Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
7308 Hanover Green Drive, Suite 100
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Conservation Education award



2007 Conservation Educator of the Year, Dr. Gail Lee, Nandua High School, Eastern Shore SWCD

The Eastern Shore is one of the largest agricultural communities in the state of Virginia. It is a rural wildlife haven with two National Refuges and one State Park and is surrounded on three sides by marine waters. Dr. Gail Lee, Nandua High School, believes in taking advantage of these natural resources and using them as outdoor classrooms. She encourages hands on projects and involves students in real life situations. Each year her class raises thousands of plants in the school greenhouse and sells them to the local community. Her horticulture students are also trained in the proper methods of pruning and other landscape maintenance skills and have the responsibility of maintaining the trees and gardens on the school grounds. They also re-seed, fertilize and aerate the athletic fields. Her classes have been requested to design and construct several native plant gardens along with butterfly and decorative gardens. Her classroom is also home to a large aquaculture tank. After school, she coaches an Envirothon Team, a natural resource competition, which has received local, regional and state awards.

Conservation Education Award page 2 -

Dr. Lee's areas of study include: horticulture science, greenhouse plant production and management, landscaping, biological applications in agriculture and developmental horticulture.

Gail's passion for the environment is demonstrated daily in her classroom and reflected into the actions and rising interests of her students. The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Education Committee and the Eastern Shore Soil and Water Conservation District would like to congratulate Dr. Lee on her selection as a recipient for the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Conservation Educator of the Year. We thank Gail for her commitment to spreading conservation practices to our local youth.

Congratulations to Dr. Lee for her significant contributions to conservation education.

For information on education programs, contact the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at (804) 559-0324 or dana.roberts@vaswcd.org or <http://www.vaswcd.org>

#####